

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An automatic valve assembly for a water cooler having a reservoir of the type that has
5 its upper end generally sealed to the atmosphere by a water bottle adapter that receives
and supports an inverted water bottle. The valve assembly comprises a ventilation
passageway providing a means for air to enter the reservoir, and an actuator arm
hingedly mounted within the interior of the water cooler. The actuator arm is operable
to move between an open and a closed position in response to changing water levels
10 within the reservoir. When in its open position the actuator arm allows the unrestricted
passage of air into the reservoir through the ventilation passageway. When in its closed
position the actuator arm restricts the flow of air and fluids through the ventilation
passageway.